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June 22, 2011

Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

*RE: In the matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or transfer control of licenses and authorizations; (WT Proceeding - No. 11-65).*

Dear Commissioners:

The City of Fort Pierce, Florida is one of the oldest communities on the east coast of Florida and has grown to over 44,000 residents. As our city has evolved, we have opened the doors for countless economic possibilities. Despite our growth, the Fort Pierce community remains firmly rooted in the city's rural past. Fort Pierce offers a quiet, peaceful environment that is still in close proximity to the busier cities of West Palm Beach and Orlando.

As mayor, implementing policy that will attract and retain business in Fort Pierce is a top priority of mine. It is absolutely essential that our city be equipped with the technological resources necessary for business to successfully operate. Mobile broadband is one of the technological resources that has become essential to the prosperity of a business. I am a small business owner myself, so I can speak to the benefit of mobile broadband technology in improving the efficiency and market reach of a company. It is extremely important that Fort Pierce, and similar cities across the United States, have access to state-of-the-art mobile broadband technology.

The merger of AT&T and T-Mobile will expand advanced wireless broadband access to more than 97 percent of Americans. This will give access to a great number of rural areas across the country that may not otherwise have access to this technology. The merger allows for near universal coverage to be achieved by private investment, which has the capacity to spur economic improvement and create jobs.

I respectfully request that the Commissioners grant approval to this merger. I believe it will be very helpful for the people of Fort Pierce, Florida and other like communities across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. J. Benton III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert J. Benton III  
Mayor

C: Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn